

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

The major media networks are now so compromised that we never get objective reporting on crises. Two big examples: When Mr. Sumner, CEO of Viacom, announced he was supporting Bush and that his networks would not cover an expose of the Niger nuclear cake fraud, this erased any objectivity there.

And then there is FOX which is NOT fair or balanced and even made up lies after the first debate, putting words in Kerry's mouth he did not say.

We need to return to professional, dedicated journalists, reporters who have integrity.